

Expedited Procedure Under 37 CFR §1.116

Application No. 10/540,364

Paper Dated: November 13, 2007

In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of July 27, 2007

Attorney Docket No. 3988-051799

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. This amendment amends claims 21, 22, 24, 26, 28,-30, 32, 33 and 39 as follows:

Listing of Claims

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously presented) A coupling for a spiral wire flexible hose, wherein the coupling comprises:

a ring clamp configured as a clamping jaw and including at least two partial shells enclosing a sleeve of the spiral wire flexible hose, wherein the ring clamp has an inner contour having a spiral to receive a spiral wire flexible hose in a positive locking engagement, wherein the hose is adapted to receive a spout therein, wherein the spiral has a variable pitch and extends up to a protrusion situated at the end of the ring clamp, whereby the spout is clamped such that the spout is axially immovable.

21. (Currently Amended) A The coupling for a spiral wire flexible hose, according to claim 20, further comprising wherein the coupling comprises:

a ring clamp configured as a clamping jaw and including at least two partial shells enclosing a sleeve of the spiral wire flexible hose, wherein the ring clamp has an inner contour having a spiral to receive a spiral wire flexible hose in a positive locking engagement, wherein the hose is adapted to receive a spout therein, wherein the spiral has a variable pitch and extends up to a protrusion situated at the end of the ring clamp, whereby the spout is clamped such that the spout is axially immovable, and

a clamping lever attached to free circumferential end of one of the partial shells via a bolt, and one end of a recoil spring pivotally mounted to the clamping lever, the recoil spring having an opposite free end wherein with the free end of the recoil spring connected to the other free circumferential end of the corresponding partial shell a non-positive locking engagement is provided between the steel wound sleeve and the ring clamp.

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22. (Currently Amended) The coupling according to claim 2120, wherein the ring clamp is injection molded from plastic.

23. (Previously Presented) The coupling according to claim 22, wherein the at least two partial shells of the ring clamp are attached to each other.

24. (Currently Amended) The coupling according to claim 2120, wherein the spiral is constructed from plastic.

25. (Previously Presented) The coupling according to claim 24, wherein the plastic is electrically conductive.

26. (Currently Amended) The coupling according to claim 2120, wherein the spiral has an essentially rectangular cross-section.

27. (Previously Presented) The coupling according to claim 25, wherein the spiral includes a centrally located ridge-like protrusion situated on an inner surface thereof.

28. (Currently Amendment) The coupling according to claim 2120, wherein the inner contour of the partial shells has concentric ridges.

29. (Currently Amended) The coupling according to claim 2120, wherein the inner contour of the partial shells has interspaced ridges.

30. (Currently Amended) The coupling according to claim 2120, wherein the inner contour of the partial shells has a plurality of peg-like projections.

31. (Previously Presented) The coupling according to claim 30, wherein the inner contour of the partial shells has interspaced ridges and one of the ridges and the projections have a triangular cross-section.

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32. (Currently Amended) The coupling according to claim 2120, wherein the spout has a flange configured as an annular flange and the partial shells have an annular groove inside the clamping jaw provided to accommodate the annular flange.

33. (Currently Amended) The coupling according to claim 2120, wherein the spout has an annular groove wherein a seal is situated in the area over which the sleeve end of the spiral wire flexible hose is situated.

34. (Previously Presented) The coupling according to claim 33, wherein the seal is an O-ring cord.

35. (Previously Presented) The coupling according to claim 21, wherein the clamping lever is constructed of stainless steel.

36. (Previously Presented) A coupling for a spiral wire flexible hose wherein the coupling comprises:

a ring clamp configured as a clamping jaw and including at least two partial shells enclosing a sleeve of the spiral wire flexible hose, wherein the ring clamp has an inner contour having a spiral to receive a spiral wire flexible hose in a positive locking engagement, wherein the hose is adapted to receive a spout therein, wherein the spiral extends up to a protrusion situated at the end of the ring clamp, whereby the spout is clamped such that the spout is axially immovable;

a clamping lever attached to free circumferential end of one of the partial shells via a bolt, and connected via a recoil spring to other free circumferential end of the corresponding partial shell to create non-positive locking engagement between the steel wound sleeve and the ring clamp, and

wherein the recoil spring is articulated on a pin arranged parallel to the bolt, wherein at least one of the bolt, the pin, and the recoil spring are constructed of rustproof steel.

37. (Previously Presented) The coupling according to claim 29, wherein the ridges have a triangular cross-section.

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38. (Previously Presented) The coupling according to claim 28, wherein the ridges have a triangular cross-section.

39. (Currently Amended) The coupling according to claim 21, wherein the at least two partial shells are two shells and each of the partial shells of the ring clamp having the free circumferential end and an opposite second circumferential end having one part of a pin and groove locking arrangement; the second circumferential end of one of the shells having the pin and the second circumferential end of the other shell having the groove, wherein with the pin in the groove, the shells are pivotally mounted to move the free circumferential ends of the shells toward and away from one another.